

Thousand Oaks Community Workshop

June 24, 2023

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Spanish interpretation available

Introductions

Today's Goals

You Learn from the Experts

Experts Listen to *You*

Draft Maps Overview

You Leave Empowered to Give Effective Feedback

Why You Should Care

- ❑ Democracy works better when people are engaged
- ❑ You are the experts on your community
- ❑ You are the experts on your neighborhood
- ❑ The districts determined in this process will be around until 2031

Presentation Overview

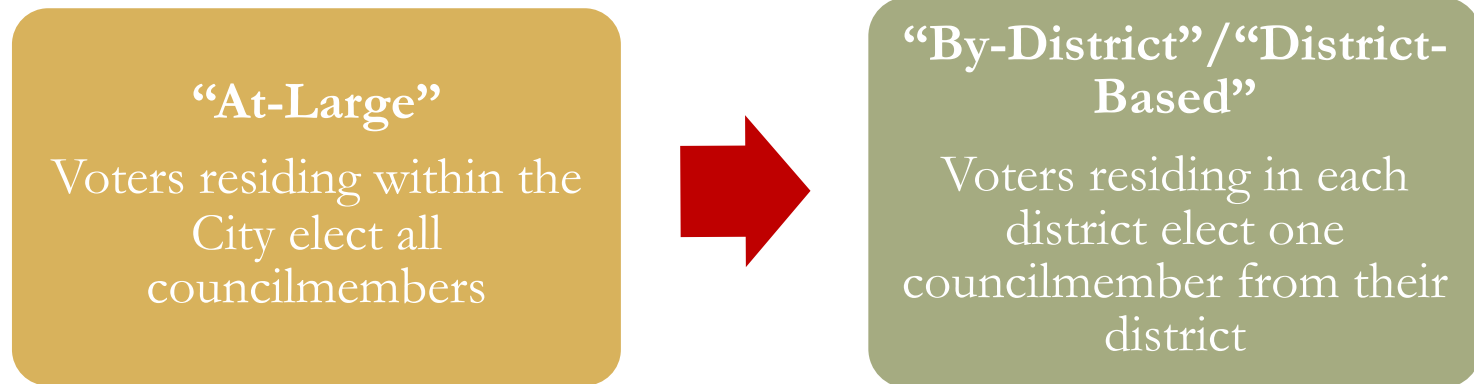
- I. Background: Transition to District-Based Elections
- II. Legal Requirements for Districts
- III. Draft Maps
- IV. Public Mapping Tools

Today's Goal: You leave empowered to participate effectively in the districting process

Background: New Election System

What are district-based elections?

- T.O. currently uses an **at-large** system to elect the City Council
- Beginning in 2024, the City will transition to a **district-based** election system



Background: CVRA

Why is the City changing its election system?

- On March 15, 2023, the City received a letter challenging the City's current **at-large** election system
- The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) encourages **by-district** elections and makes it easier to bring lawsuits against cities with **at-large** elections
- To avoid potential litigation under the CVRA, T.O. is transitioning to **district-based** elections

Districting Process

Step	Description
Two Initial Hearings May 9 & May 16	Held prior to release of draft maps. Education and to solicit input on the composition of districts.
Community Outreach May 11 & June 3	Forums for public input and education on the process and mapping tools.
Release draft maps	Maps must be posted at least 7 days prior to 3 rd hearing.
Hearing on draft maps June 20	Two meetings to discuss and revise the draft maps and to discuss the election sequence.
Community Outreach June 22 & 24	Opportunities for residents to discuss and share opinions on the initial draft maps.
Hearing and Selection of Preferred Map July 11	2 nd public hearing for public input on draft maps. Likely selection of map and election sequence and introduction of adoption ordinance.
Map adoption July 18	Map adopted via ordinance. Final map must be posted at least 7 days prior to adoption.

Districting Rules and Goals

1. Federal Laws

Equal Population
Federal Voting Rights Act
No Racial Gerrymandering



2. California Criteria for Cities

1. **Geographically contiguous**
2. **Undivided neighborhoods and “communities of interest”**
(Socio-economic geographic areas that should be kept together)
3. **Easily identifiable boundaries**
4. **Compact**
(Do not bypass one group of people to get to a more distant group of people)

Prohibited:

“Shall not favor or discriminate against a political party.”

3. Other Traditional Districting Principles

Respect voters’ choices / continuity in office
Future population growth

Community of Interest Input

□ From the May 9th Hearing and May 10th and June 3rd Community Forums:

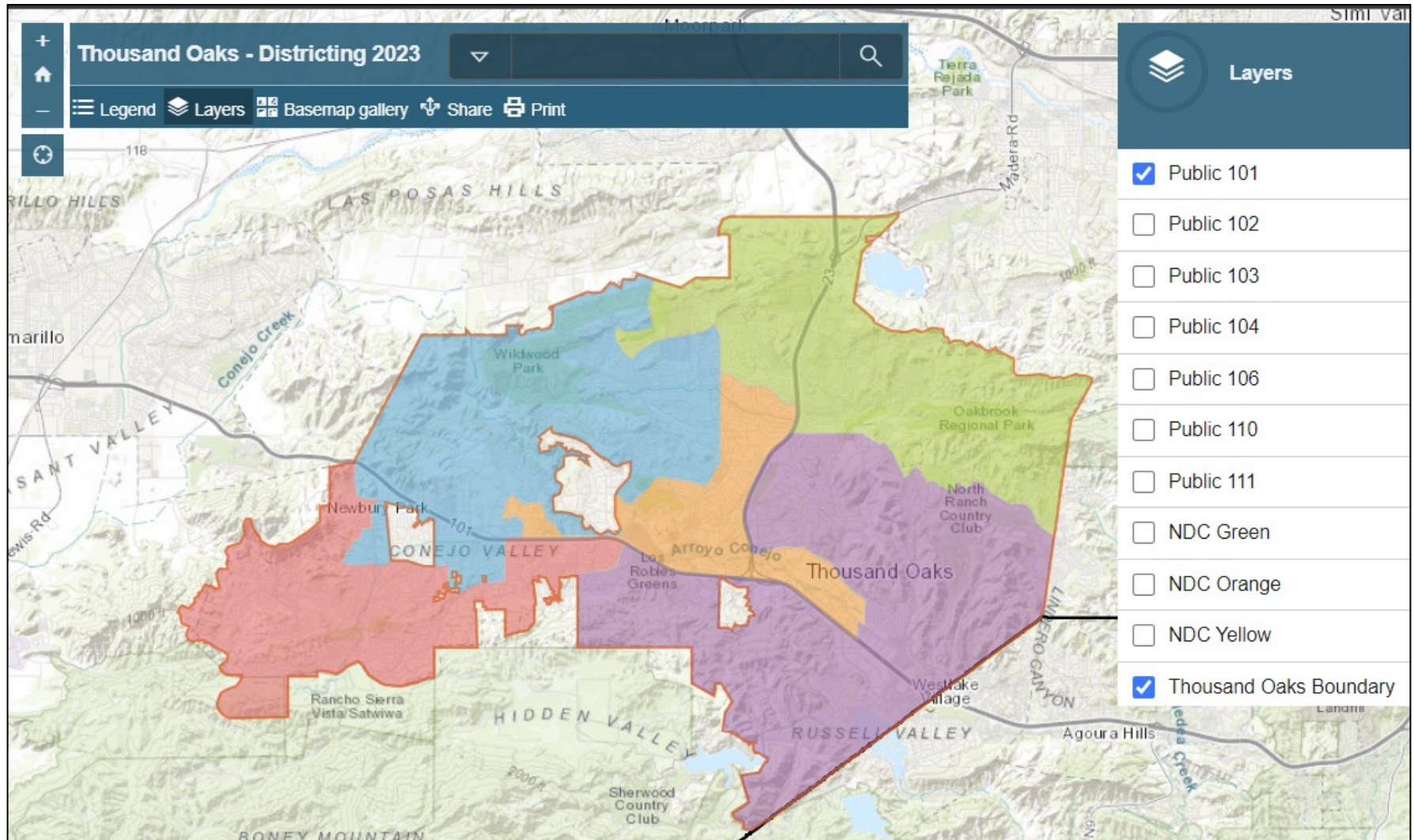
- Freeway corridors
- School attendance areas
- Newbury Park
- Downtown (Moorpark to 101 to Janss Marketplace)
- Encino Vista
- Westlake Village-adjacent
- Upper and lower Erbes Rd corridors
- Greenridge/CLU
- Lang Ranch/Oakbrook
- Eastern Newbury Park/Amgen

Q&A With Your Hosts

Draft Maps

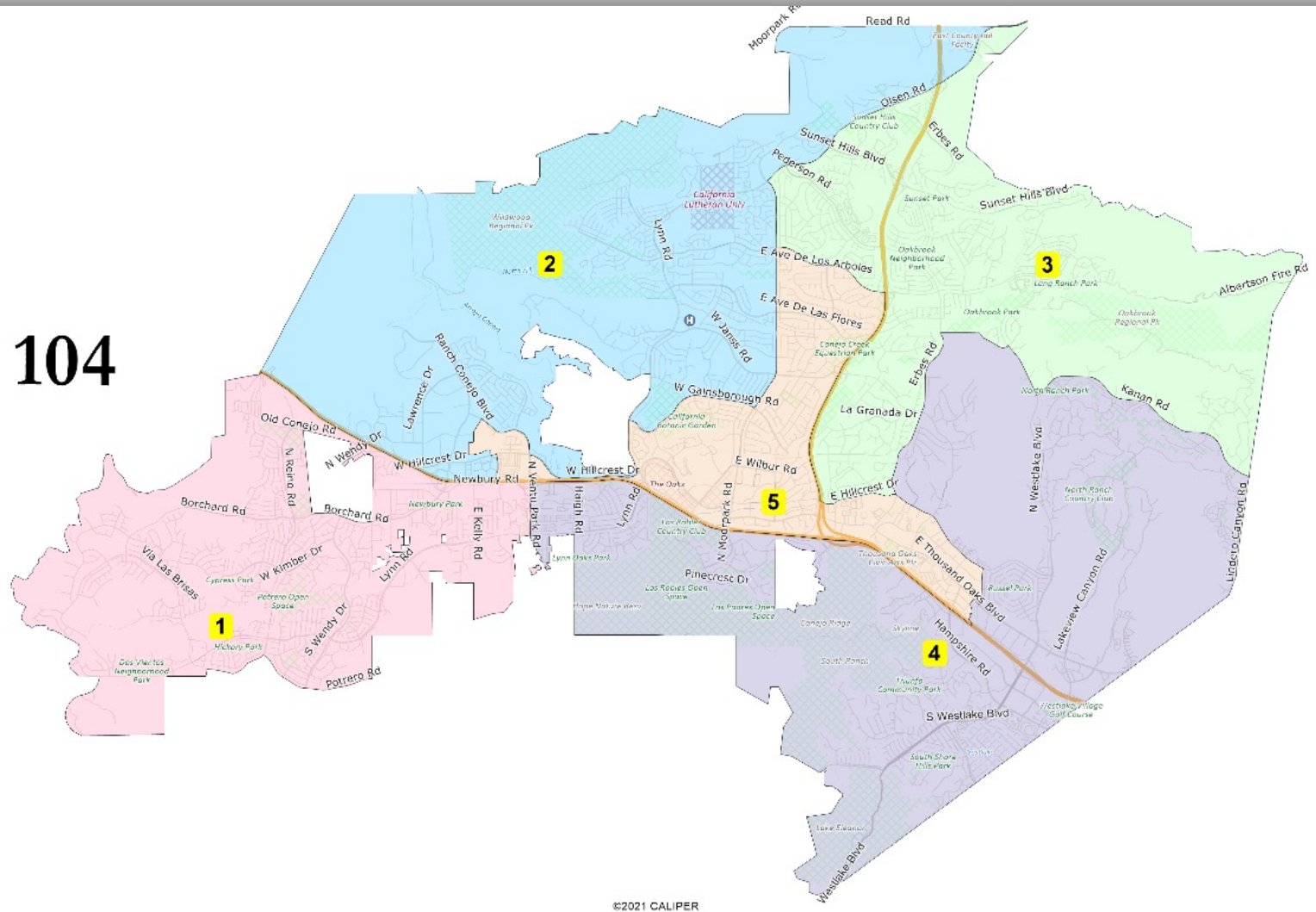
- Current Draft Maps *to date*:
 - ▣ Thirteen maps received from the public (Map 101 through Map 113)
 - ▣ NDC added three maps (Green, Orange and Yellow)
- June 20th Council meeting:
 - Map 106 and Map 111 revised per Council request → Map 106B and Map 111B
 - Map 104, Map 106B, and Map 111B identified as “Focus Maps”
- Additional maps may be submitted until June 27

View Draft Maps Online

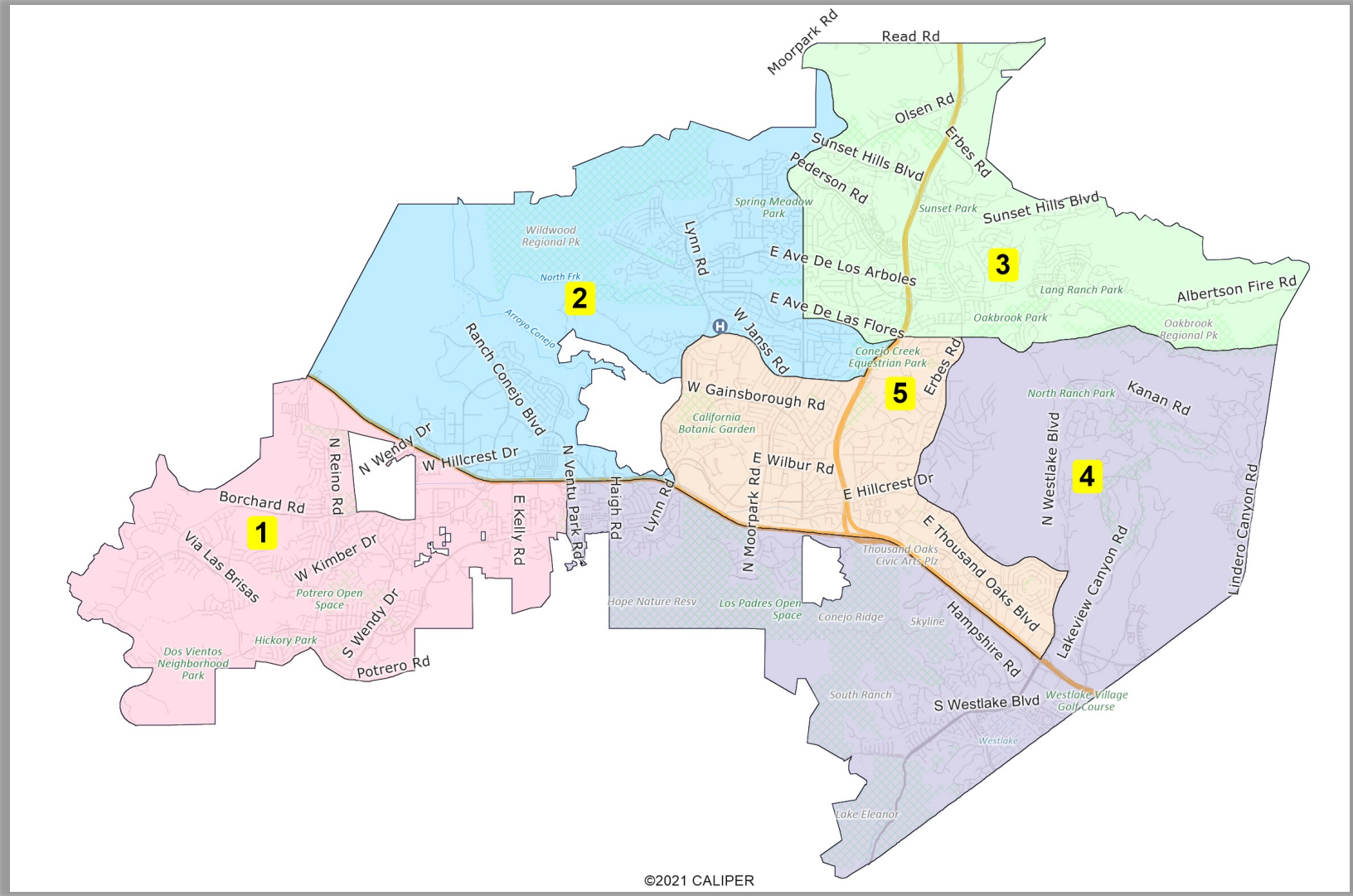


Focus Map 104

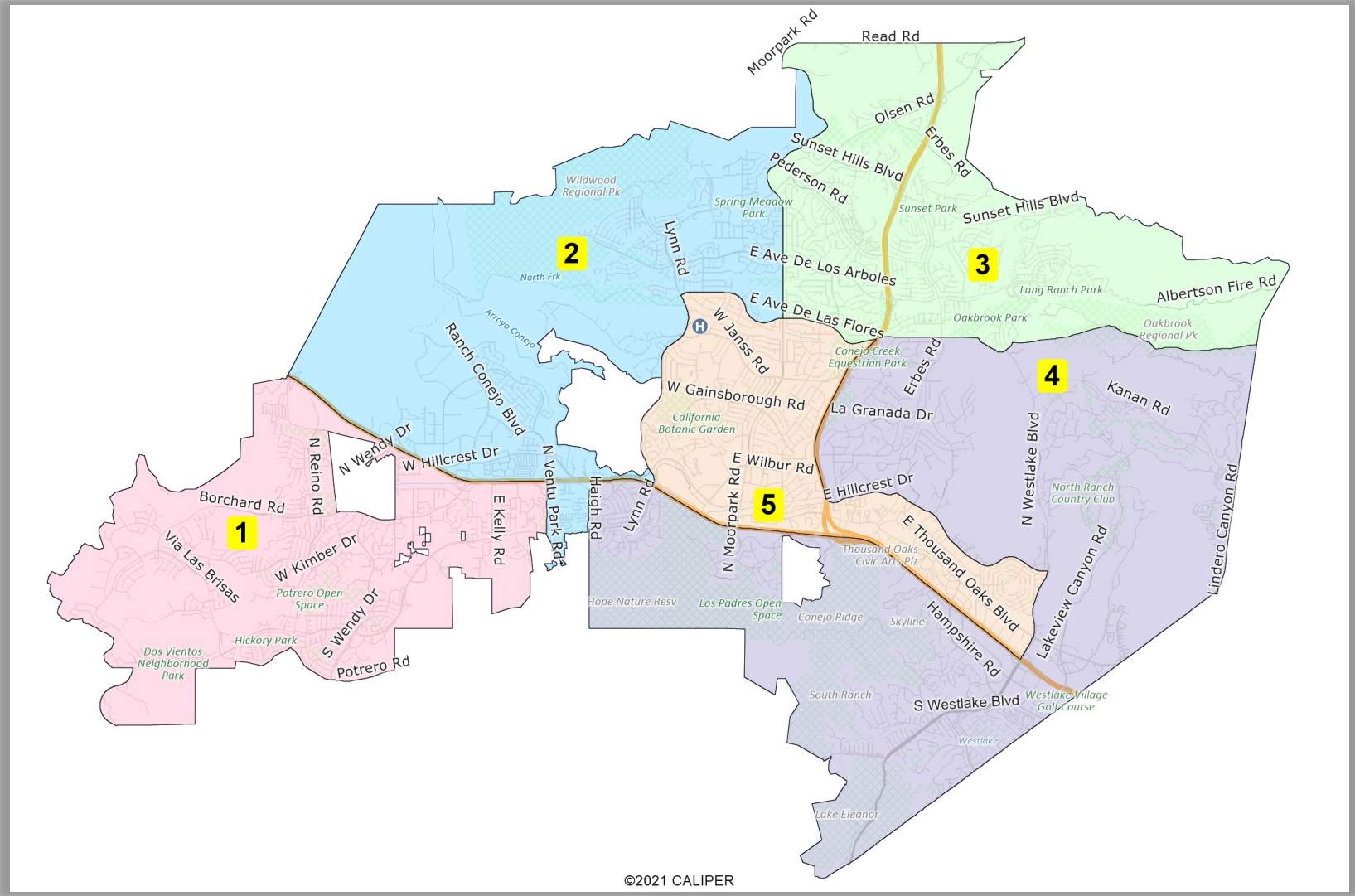
104



Focus Map 106B

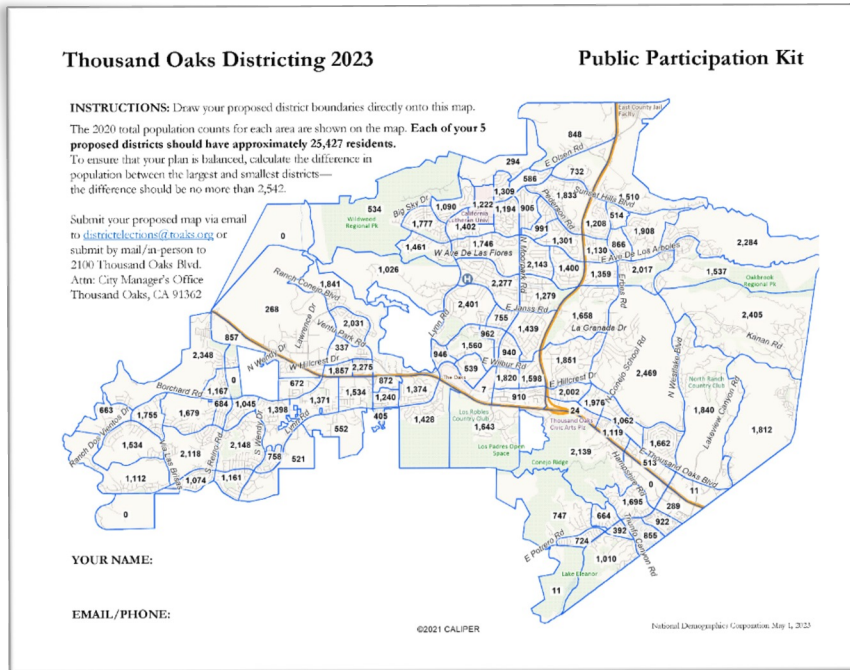


Focus Map 111B

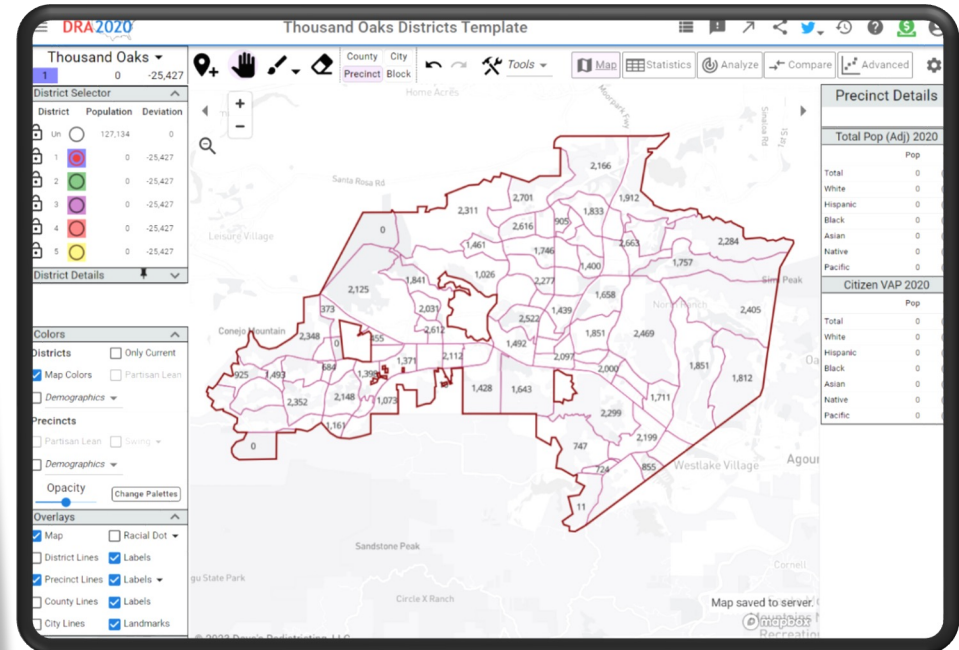


Draw Your Own District Map

Simple Paper Kit



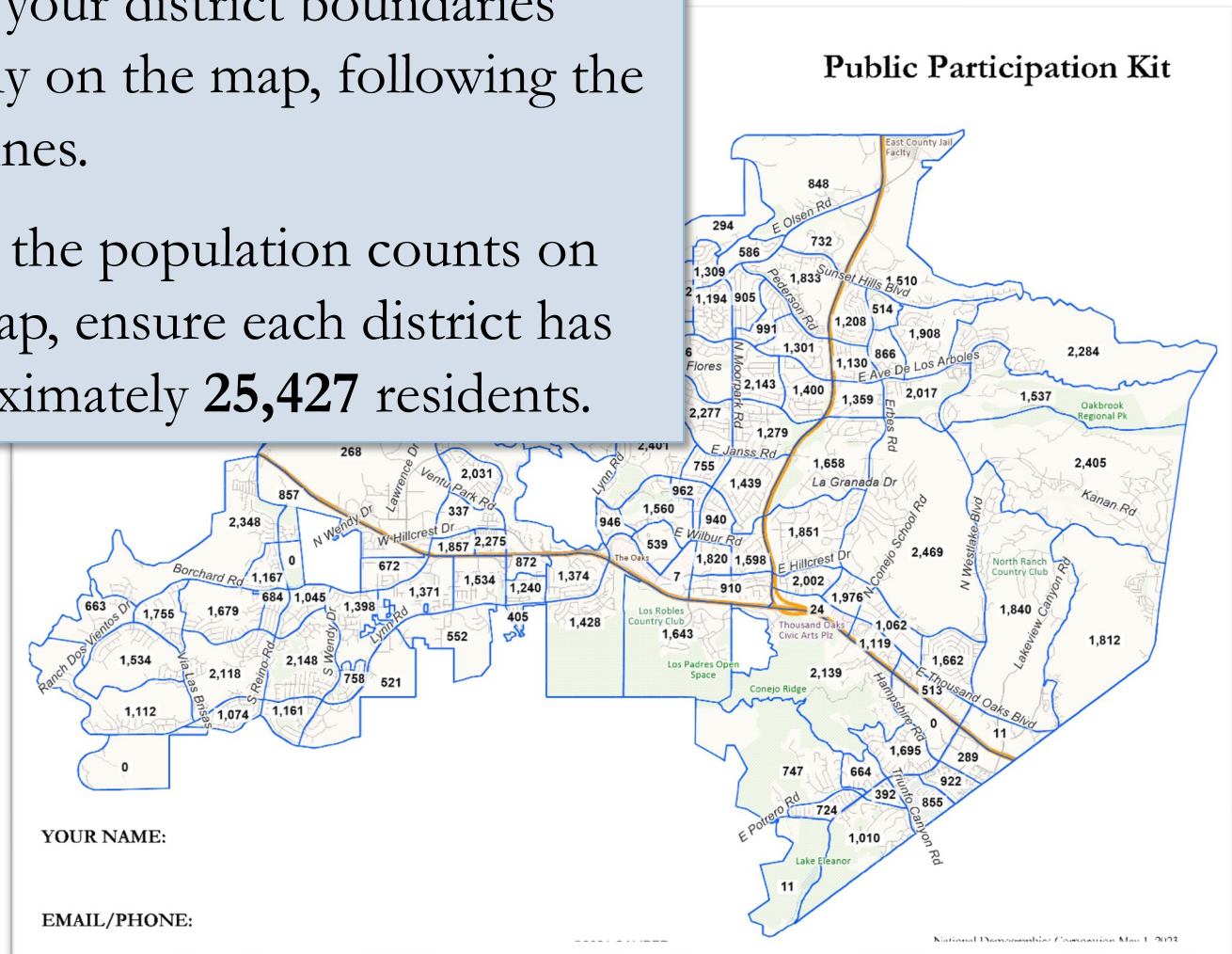
Online Tool



Whether you use the online tool, the paper kit, or just draw on a napkin, we welcome your maps!

How to Use the Paper Mapping Kit

1. Draw your district boundaries directly on the map, following the blue lines.
2. Using the population counts on the map, ensure each district has approximately **25,427** residents.



Share Your Thoughts



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Welcome

Background

On March 15, 2023, the City of Thousand Oaks received a letter challenging the City's current election system and asserting that the City's at-large election system violates the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA).

The City is not unique in this situation. Agencies throughout the State have received similar demand letters prompting a shift from at-large to district-based elections. While it is unclear if the City's current system runs afoul of existing law, the cost of litigation to defend the at-large system, coupled with the track record of other public agencies that have fought similar challenges, poses a significant financial and legal risk to the City.

In light of the letter and to protect the City from financial and legal risks, Thousand Oaks has taken steps to consider transitioning its election process to district-based elections.

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